(ii) Receipt of incomplete and vague reports from the Police Authorities.

(iii) Non-receipt of replies from other Passport Issuing Authorities in cases where references are made to them, as required under the rules.

The Passport Office, Bhopal is issuing periodic reminders to all concerned, as that these pending applications are disposed off at the earliest.

(d) to (f) Taking into consideration the workload of the Passport Office, Bhopal, the existing staff strength is quite sufficient for the efficient functioning of the Passport Office.

Safai Karmacharies in GIC

6198. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for regularising the services of part time safai karmacharies working in United India Insurance Co. Ltd. and other subsidiaries of GIC;

(b) whether the services of the above category of employees of United India Insurance Co. Ltd. have not been regularised for many years;

(c) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(d) the number of such employees in each of the subsidiaries of GIC; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make these employees permanent and extend full benefit of pay & allowances, pension and other facilities at par with other permanent employees of their status in GIC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Activities of IDBI

6199. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state the steps taken to expand the activities of IDBI, specially in urban and rural areas State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Transit with Iran and Turkmenistan

6200. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement in regard to Transit with Iran and Turkmenistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above agreement will be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir. On 22 February, 1997 in Tehran, India, Iran and Turkmenistan signed at the level of Foreign Ministers, a Trilateral Agreement on International Transit of Goods.

(b) A suo moto statement was made by the External Affairs Minister before the Lok Sabha on 26 February, 1997 which includes the relevant information.

(c) The agreement shall come into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

Violation of Regulations of RBI by PSBs

6201. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any violation of RBI regulations has been committed by the Private sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the RBI in the matter and the concerned private sector banks on the instructions of the RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that irregularities (including mismangement of funds) vis-a-vis prescribed procedures in banks or RBI instructions are mainly noticed at the time of periodical inspection of banks. RBI have further reported that in addition to some remedial errors, violation of their instructions relating to payment of interest on deposits and advances against shares and debentures by some private sector banks have come to their notice.

Two private sector banks, had offered different rates of interest on domestic term deposits of similar maturities to public institutions/other institutions in violation of RBI directives on interest rates on deposits. The concerned banks were issued letters of displeasure by RBI during January/November, 1996.

As per RBI's extant instructions the commercial banks are precluded from sanctioning advances against the primary security of shares and debentures to partnership/proprietorship concerns. Seven banks in private sector had sanctioned advances against the primary security of shares and debentures to partnership/proprietorship concerns in violation of RBI instructions. RBI had issued letter of displeasure to these bank during 1995-96.

[Translation]

Kashmir Issue

6202. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stand taken by Britain in respect of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) the stand taken by the U.S.A. in respect of Jammu & Kashmir;

(c) whether the Government have approached the two Governments recently indicating our country's position vis-a-vis Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) the proposal of the Government towards the solution of the problems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) The full restoration of the political process in Jammu and Kashmir has been welcomed by Britain and the United States. Both countries have also condemned terrorist violence in the State. The country's position regarding Jammu and Kashmir, which has been a victim of proxy war and cross-border terrorism, has been made known to the international community including Britain and the United States. The Government is resolved to take all necessary steps to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Buildings on Agricultural Land

6203. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred question No. 2161 dated December 21, 1994 and 5142 dated September 11, 1996 regarding buildings on agricultural land and state:

(a) whether the land has since been reconverted for agricultural use in regard to the 2714 cases in which orders under section 81 of Delhi Land reforms Act, 1954 have been passed or the land has been vested in the Gram Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been no progress in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the number of cases of unauthorised construction on agricultural land since January 1, 1994, the details thereof and the reasons for the revenue officials having failed to check the coming up of those buildings and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the revenue officials and their seniors who failed to exercise proper supervision over their juniors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Allotment of Land

6204. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answers given to USQ Nos. 1704 and 3748 dated July 24, 1996 and December 18, 1996 regarding allotment of land respectively and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Thermal Power Stationa in A.P.

6205. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thermal Power Stations in Andhra Pradesh have achieved a plant load factor of 78.2 per cent during the financial year 1996-97;

(b) if so, the target fixed by the Central Electricity Authority and the overall power generated by each station;

(c) whether the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station has achieved a plant load factor of 93.12 per cent which is the highest in the country during 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to be increased during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) During 1996-97 the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board was 78.3 per cent.

(b) Station-wise details of energy generation and PLF during 1996-97 is given below :

Name of the Station	Energy Target	Gen. (MU) Actual	PLF Target	(%) Actual
1	2	3	4	5
Kothagudam	3961	3524	58.8	60.0
Vijayawada	9450	10286	85.6	93.2
Ramagundam B	400	379	73.1	69.2